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Chairperson: Mr. Rastam (Vice-Chairperson) ..... (Malaysia)

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In the absence of Mr. Penke (Latvia), Mr. Rastam (Malaysia), Vice-Chairperson, took the chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 104: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/64/99, 121, 123 and 130, and A/64/227-S/2009/402; A/C.3/64/L.2)

Agenda item 105: International drug control (*continued*) (A/64/92-E/2009/98 and A/64/120)

1. **Mr. Wolfe** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), warmly welcomed the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his report (A/64/123) and joined the call for strengthening of the technical cooperation capacity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in order to ensure that its technical assistance activities in the field were properly brought into the mainstream of the respective programmes.

2. The problems of drugs and crime were of major concern to the Caribbean region, whose geographical location made it a bridge between the major producers of narcotics and their consumers. The international drug trade was so inextricably linked to organized crime, in particular transnational organized crime, that the Heads of State of the region had decided to add a fourth pillar — security — to the Treaty of Chaguaramas, by which CARICOM had been established.

3. The countries of the region had developed various mechanisms to deal with those issues at various levels: the Council of Ministers Responsible for National Security and Law Enforcement; the Regional Task Force on Crime and Security; the CARICOM Social and Development Crime Prevention Action Plan 2009-2013, developed jointly by CARICOM and UNODC; and the Political Declaration on Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime, Terrorism and Other Serious Crime in the Caribbean, adopted at the closing of a ministerial conference, which provided for the creation of a consultative mechanism and an Internet-based automated donor response database.

4. CARICOM was supportive of the Political Declaration and Action Plan adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs which aimed at enhancing international cooperation in the fight against drugs and was pleased that drugs control was placed in the context of security, health and development.

5. The problem of trafficking in persons had been the subject of high-level international meetings. In collaboration with the International Organization for Migration, CARICOM had drawn up regional guidelines to counter trafficking. Some member States of the region had already enacted legislation on trafficking in persons. CARICOM recommended that multilateral, regional and bilateral cooperation should be pursued and that the focus should be on capacity-building and knowledge sharing.

6. It was important that the efforts of member States should be recognized and that unilaterally determined standards should not be used as a benchmark for assessing progress made at the national level.

7. The practice of relocating criminal offenders from developed countries to developing countries was destabilizing for societies and dangerous in a world without borders, in which security problems demanded joint responses.

8. Cybercrime was an emerging problem for the region and required a multisectoral response.

9. The transnational nature of security threats made cooperation with neighbouring States and partnerships paramount in addressing them. In that connection, the recent expert-level dialogue recently undertaken between CARICOM and the United States of America had made it possible to define areas for cooperation (capacity-building, police training, improvement of rehabilitation programmes, and so on).

10. CARICOM, deeply affected by transnational crime and international drug trafficking, looked forward to a Caribbean-based United Nations office on drugs and crime in the very near future. Such an office would play a critical role in coordinating regional activities and would work in cooperation with national focal points.

11. **Mr. Mokin** (Russian Federation) stated that there was a need to strengthen the coordinating role of the United Nations and the capacities of the specialized agencies and programmes in order to organize effectively the actions undertaken by the international community against transnational organized crime and drug trafficking.

12. In that respect, the Russian Federation was in favour of the implementation of the global strategy to combat crime recommended by the Secretary-General in his report (A/64/123), which would involve defining priorities — combating corruption, terrorism,

cybercrime, fraud or identity theft, for example — and requesting certain United Nations bodies, in particular the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to take appropriate action.

13. It was important in particular to strengthen the cooperation mechanisms based on the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and on the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

14. The Russian Federation took an active part in the work of the conferences of States parties to those conventions and in the preparations for the third session of the Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which would deal in particular with the review of the implementation of the Convention, asset recovery and technical assistance.

15. At the national level, on 25 December 2008 the Russian Federation had adopted a federal law on combating corruption. To that end and with a view to ratifying the convention, it had reviewed its legislation and in particular strengthened the monitoring of incomes and assets of municipal and government officials, and had put in place a national anti-corruption action plan.

16. Given the scale of the problems facing the international community owing to crime, the Russian Federation considered that it was essential to act under the leadership of the United Nations in that area and to ensure that such action was not overtaken by other priorities of the Organization.

17. The Russian Federation was in favour of creating a political and legal space to combat crime, developing intergovernmental cooperation in the area of law enforcement and harmonizing national procedures and practices for maintaining law and order.

18. With regard to international drug control, the position of the Russian Federation was in line with that of the Collective Security Treaty Organization. The fight against drugs, in particular in Afghanistan — which was still the leading producer worldwide of opiates — was showing mixed outcomes. The most recent UNODC report was largely dominated by negative trends: the development and growing coordination of narcotics producers and small terrorist groups.

19. In order to stimulate international cooperation in combating drugs in Afghanistan, there was a need to carry out the measures envisaged in the context of the Paris-Moscow process, under the leadership of the United Nations and to develop and amplify them in line with the evolving situation in Afghanistan and its surroundings. The third ministerial conference planned for the end of 2010 should be useful in that regard. The first step was to create safe areas around Afghanistan. In the Declaration and Action Plan adopted at the end of its special conference on Afghanistan, held the previous March, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization had called for strengthening of international cooperation in that area.

20. The United Nations conventions dealing with combating drugs constituted a solid basis both for adopting measures at the national level and for organizing international cooperation. It was also encouraging to see that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs did not recommend, in the measures that it proposed, recourse to dubious methods (for example that of "harm reduction") which, while they might be put into operation in certain countries or on an exceptional basis, should not be considered as global norms validated by the United Nations.

21. **Mr. Al-Nasser** (Qatar) expressed the view that the growth of crime, trafficking in persons and administrative and financial corruption were impeding the economic and social development that was needed in order to battle poverty, hunger and ignorance.

22. At the national level, Qatar had taken important administrative and legislative measures to combat trafficking in persons. In particular, in 2005 it had adopted Act No. 8 creating the Qatar Office for Combating Trafficking in Persons. It had also reviewed the legislation in force in order to adapt it to international norms.

23. On the international level, it had acceded to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. In coordination with UNODC, Qatar was establishing a science-based capacity-building project adapted to the current and future needs of the Arab countries.

24. Nevertheless, it would be necessary to strengthen yet further collective action to put an end to that scourge. Within the context of the interactive thematic dialogue of the United Nations General Assembly which had taken place on 13 May 2009, some States had

considered the possibility of drawing up a global plan of action to prevent trafficking in persons. Qatar saw that as a project with many different aspects and hoped that the action would be pursued on a wider scale.

25. Qatar had ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption in order to participate actively in international action to battle administrative and financial corruption. At the national level, it had enacted laws, creating, inter alia, a National Committee for Integrity and Transparency.

26. Qatar urged the international community to participate in great numbers in two forthcoming events. From 9 to 13 November 2009, participants in the third session of the Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption would consider the progress made in that area, and on 7 and 8 November 2009, the sixth session of the Global Forum on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity would tackle the role of the private and public sectors in battling corruption.

27. Qatar was determined to pursue its efforts to strengthen the means of cooperating with international bodies and to establish a climate of justice and security.

28. **Ms. Blum** (Colombia) recalled that in its 2009 report, UNODC had noted an encouraging decrease in the production of cocaine and heroin worldwide and stressed the correlation between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime.

29. Colombia had been struggling for more than 30 years against the scourge of drugs. In order to ensure the security, prosperity and social cohesion of its citizens, it was implementing a global strategy aimed at reducing both drug supply and drug demand and combating the criminal behaviour that the phenomenon caused.

30. In 2008, Colombian national institutions had achieved numerous successes in the areas of public health, and the well-being and safety of society as a whole. The eradication of illicit coca crops (by spraying from the air or by manual eradication) had made it possible to reduce the areas cultivated by 18 per cent and cocaine production by 28 per cent, thereby moving Colombia closer to the objective of 50 per cent that it had set for itself in 2001.

31. The activities of crop substitution, another pillar of Colombia's anti-drug strategy, provided a way of ensuring the viability of the areas cleared of illicit crops. The Government intended to acquire 64,000 hectares of land to be provided to the families of forest-dwellers living in strategic ecosystems.

32. In order to preserve the environment and ensure the long-term economic and social development of the rural populations that had given up illicit crops, the donor countries must contribute more to crop substitution activities, not only by granting financial and technical assistance but also by facilitating the marketing of the products which resulted from those activities.

33. International cooperation, which was based on the principle of shared responsibility, took the form of coordinating activities, providing technical and financial assistance, exchanging information and combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

34. The drugs problem was a worldwide phenomenon which threatened the international community as a whole. Since transnational crime was becoming better and better organized, the growing, production, trafficking and consumption of drugs had extended to a growing number of countries. In order to destabilize that system, the international community needed to attack every link in the chain, preventing criminal networks from carrying out their illegal activities (such as drug and weapon trafficking, diversion of precursors, or money-laundering).

35. Colombia was sharing the experience and skills that it had acquired over the years, within the context of cooperation programmes. It was responding to requests for training and technical assistance that it received from countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and West Africa, and Asia. It was thus participating actively in the initiative of cooperation for the exchange of information between the drug law enforcement forces of Latin America and West Africa, which was intended to eliminate the cocaine traffic between Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe, through Africa.

36. **Mr. Hassan** (Sudan) welcomed the assistance that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was providing to the developing countries. He commended the work being undertaken in Africa by the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders despite its limited resources and was pleased that the United Nations was helping the Institute to develop. The African continent needed greater support from the United Nations for its

programmes to prevent crime in any form and combat trafficking in drugs and persons.

37. At the regional level, Sudan played a leading role in the fight against transnational crime. In cooperation with nine neighbouring countries, it was attempting to consolidate peace in certain regions that were prey to severe instability. It was a member of numerous regional and international organizations and in that connection welcomed the Sharm el-Sheikh declaration adopted at the end of the fifteenth Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, in June 2009, by which the Movement had undertaken to develop an international plan to combat trafficking in persons.

38. Sudan intended to implement national and regional anti-crime instruments and had already adapted its national legislation three times to international standards.

39. Sudan had always been a regional centre for the holding of conferences, seminars and workshops. It had been entrusted with the chairmanship of the meetings of the Central and East Africa conference held in Djibouti at the beginning of October. It had signed bilateral agreements with more than 21 countries — African, Arab and others — in the fields of training, cooperation on security and information-sharing.

40. Sudan was pleased with the positive results of the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 1995, but considered them insufficient. Since the elimination of crime was an international objective, international cooperation was an essential condition to be able to carry out the UNODC strategy for the period 2008-2011. In order to fight crime and corruption, it was necessary to take account of economic realities and the financial crisis and its devastating consequences for developing countries. The developed countries must help the latter to create jobs and attain the Millennium Development Goals, so as to establish an international order in which wealth was distributed equitably.

41. It could not be denied that Sudan was contributing to the fight against terrorism. It reiterated its determination to cooperate with those who sincerely wished to combat terrorism. The United Nations must mobilize the international community in the fight against terrorism in order to ensure that that effort was not exploited for political ends, in the service of hidden objectives. Sudan had requested that the international community should define terrorism as an international offence and adopt instruments which could constitute the framework for an international strategy, in the interests of all, but its request had so far not met with a response. Sudan urged the United Nations to call on Governments and international organizations to cooperate in order to create the necessary mechanisms for that purpose.

42. **Mr. Valero Briceño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) reported that his country, which bordered on the largest producer of cocaine in the world, was ranked fourth worldwide for seizures of narcotics, as a result of energetic anti-trafficking measures such as the placement of 10 radar installations to detect illegal flights and the use of body scanners at airports. Furthermore, an inexpensive drug detection test, developed by Venezuelan scientists, had effectively replaced the narcotics test, which had been much more costly. The country had also installed one of the largest drug incineration facilities in the world.

43. The country's efforts had borne fruit with the arrest of a number of major drug lords, numbering 14 in 2008 and 10 in 2009, who had immediately been extradited and handed over to the judicial authorities of their own countries, in most cases the United States of America and Colombia. That action had resulted in the holding in Venezuela of the Nineteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin American and Caribbean Region, which had brought together representatives of 77 countries and nine international organizations, from 28 September to 2 October 2009. At the Meeting, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean had undertaken to cooperate with the countries of West Africa in combating drug trafficking.

44. He recalled the principle of the shared responsibility of the consuming and the producing countries and stressed that Venezuela's successes in combating drugs had required neither the presence of foreign troops on its soil nor any other loss of sovereignty.

45. **Ms. Pérez Álvarez** (Cuba) said that fighting crime required above all combating underdevelopment and inequality, which offered a fertile breeding ground for crime. With the worldwide economic and financial crisis having further aggravated those factors, transnational crime was organizing itself into all-powerful multinationals. Since no country could deal

with that on its own, there was a need to strengthen international cooperation.

46. Provided that the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity were respected, Cuba was always ready to collaborate with regional and international partners in the fight against drug trafficking, but stressed that the main responsibility fell upon the major centres of consumption. There must be no double standards in combating crime, nor must countries act hypocritically in an attempt to demonize certain States. The United States of America, for example, claimed to play a leading role in combating trafficking in migrants, but its 1966 Cuban Adjustment Act was encouraging illegal emigration from Cuba. That country also presented itself as the champion of the fight against terrorism but granted immunity to notorious terrorists such as Luis Posada Carriles. Cuba had, however, frequently reiterated its offer to enter into dialogue with the United States with a view to cooperating against drug trafficking, terrorism and human trafficking.

47. Despite the embargo imposed by the United States, Cuba had registered numerous successes in the fight against crime and drugs and intended to continue cooperating actively with the United Nations in that area, in particular as part of the preparations for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Brazil in 2010.

48. **Mr. Merabet** (Algeria) recalled the devastating effects on public health of drug production and trafficking, a market estimated at about $320 billion a year. He noted that injectable drugs, for example, were the cause of 10 per cent of new cases of HIV/AIDS and stressed the importance of the objectives defined in the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, which had emanated from the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, those principles being based on the reduction of drug supply and demand together with the strengthening of international cooperation. Supply reduction entailed the promotion of alternative development policies even if there were actually no reliable data or evaluations regarding the real effectiveness of programmes undertaken to that end. Demand reduction was equally necessary, and for that reason one could not but deplore the policies of tolerance adopted by certain developed countries, notably with regard to cannabis, since such policies were likely to stimulate production in the developing countries.

49. There was a need to combat, in a simultaneous, coordinated and resolute manner, the various scourges represented by the drug trade and trafficking in persons and human organs, corruption and terrorism, which drew on the same sources of funding and whose linkages were well-known. Algeria, which had ratified the three relevant United Nations conventions, against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, against corruption and against transnational organized crime, and was incorporating their principles and commitments into its national legislation, fully accepted its responsibility as a transit country for drug trafficking and supported the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

50. **Mr. Emadi** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the statistics relating to drug trafficking were not very promising, despite the efforts of various States and international organizations. Afghan opiate production had greatly expanded and opiate purity had increased in recent years, the slight decline in 2008 being due to drought and to the replacement of poppies by cannabis. The presence of Western troops, far from helping to solve the country's deep-rooted problems, had made the situation worse.

51. The Islamic Republic of Iran ranked first worldwide in terms of seizures of opiates, having accounted for 80 per cent of total seizures, and was collaborating actively with more than 30 countries, notably under the umbrella of the Economic Cooperation Organization, as well as with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. A joint anti-drug pilot operation launched in March 2009 by his country, Afghanistan and Pakistan had resulted in seizures and the dismantling of networks. The Islamic Republic of Iran had paid a heavy price in the fight against drug trafficking, sacrificing thousands of troops from its security forces, 30,000 of them still mobilized along the borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan. Given that the country received very little assistance in this area, any additional and supplementary help would be welcome.

52. **Mr. Wee Choo Keong** (Malaysia) explained that, in the fight against transnational crime, bilateral contacts between law enforcement services remained the most effective way of sharing information. Malaysia was among the 149 countries that were party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, whose Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children it had recently ratified. In that area, it was to be hoped

that the General Assembly would soon succeed in setting up a global plan of action, with a focus not only on suppression but also on the development and security problems that made certain people vulnerable.

53. The increased attention brought to bear by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the problem of piracy was greatly to be welcomed.

54. In the area of drugs, the increased consumption of synthetic stimulants, in particular by young Asian people, remained a matter for concern. The international effort to stem the supply of and demand for drugs must include assistance for the creation of other sources of income in the producer countries. While taking stringent enforcement measures, which had proved effective against drug trafficking, Malaysia was not ignoring the public health dimension, in particular devoting 60 per cent of its budget for combating HIV/AIDS to harm-reduction programmes for injectable-drug users.

55. **Mr. Kapambwe** (Zambia), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), stressed that the Community was actively combating transnational crime by organizing joint operations in particular against vehicle theft, drug trafficking or arms smuggling. Recognizing the harmful effects of corruption on economic development and on governance, SADC had adopted a protocol on combating the scourge. At a ministerial meeting held in May 2009, it had also drawn up a strategic Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Persons. It was to be hoped that the activities under way would soon lead to the establishment of a United Nations global action plan in that area.

56. SADC had designed awareness-raising programmes aimed at young people and had taken measures to combat trafficking, but there was a greater need than ever for technical assistance from international partners.

57. **Mr. Koh** Boon Piau (Singapore), drawing attention to the terrible scourge of drug addiction and the disastrous consequences that it had on the lives of the addicts themselves, their families and society at large, told the story of a woman married to a drug addict and trafficker, who had suffered, together with her children, the consequences of his activities.

58. Millions of such stories were currently being repeated around the world. Drug addiction continued to cause havoc within communities and to represent a huge drain on resources. Drug use among young people, especially of amphetamine-type stimulants, was increasing at an alarming rate, and that peril must absolutely not be ignored.

59. Singapore was not immune to the impact of illegal drug use and trafficking, and had therefore adopted an integrated, multi-pronged anti-drug strategy, combining strict laws, vigorous enforcement, preventive education, rehabilitation and aftercare as well as community involvement. In consequence, 11 international drug syndicates had been dismantled in 2009, bringing about a 13 per cent fall in the number of drug abuse cases in the first half of the year, by comparison with the same period a year earlier. Part of the credit for that success must be attributed to cooperation with regional and international authorities.

60. In tandem with strict enforcement measures, the authorities had also focused their efforts on a preventive education programme targeting schools and youth groups. Community and corporate partners, inter alia, organs of the press, had joined the authorities to increase public awareness of the perils of drug abuse.

61. In terms of rehabilitation and aftercare, Singapore continued to adopt a differentiated approach towards drug abusers. First- and second-time offenders were sent to rehabilitation centres where the procedures were centred around abstinence, religious and social counselling, work, vocational training and education. Such offenders did not receive a criminal record. Third-time and subsequent offenders, on the other hand, were viewed as recalcitrant drug abusers and subjected to a strict penal regime.

62. The social reintegration of drug abusers accounted for a large part of the efforts deployed, and for considerable quantities of resources. A substantial part of the support in the pre-release and aftercare phases, in particular with regard to obtaining paid employment or the provision of counselling, was provided by community partners. Support given to abusers' family members was also a not insignificant component.

63. Singapore intended to remain a committed partner in the fight against drug trafficking and abuse and would continue to adapt its national strategy to improve its effectiveness, while cooperating with international partners to rid current and future generations of a terrible scourge.

64. **Mr. AlShahail** (Saudi Arabia) said that the Saudi delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's reports

on crime prevention, criminal justice and international drug control and also welcomed the role played by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and in particular the efforts made in the area of technical cooperation and improvement of coordination in the fight against trafficking in persons. Saudi Arabia, which endorsed and remained committed to that body's continued efforts, reaffirmed its support for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

65. At the international level, Saudi Arabia was working, in various ways, to strengthen its cooperation with the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme.

66. At the national level, considerable progress had been made in recent years in the area of criminal justice, in particular with regard to the principles of equality, independence of the justice system, legality and personalization of penalties and non-retroactivity of criminal law.

67. In 2009, Saudi Arabia had launched an ambitious strategic plan to develop the justice sector, which would be spread over the next 20 years and implemented in several stages. The plan would deal with both infrastructures and mechanisms for the administration of justice and the utilization of human resources, with the objective of improving the functioning of the sector as a whole.

68. At the beginning of February 2009, on the occasion of the fortieth session of the Executive Bureau of the Council of Arab Ministers of Justice and the twentieth session of the Council, both of which had taken place in Beirut, experts from Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries had considered various issues, notably ways to facilitate procedures for the extradition of criminals and combating transnational organized crime.

69. The Saudi Ministry of Justice had recently begun working on setting up a specialized criminal court to try persons linked to Al-Qaeda and accused of attacking the security of the State.

70. The Saudi delegation felt firmly that combating crime and improving criminal justice systems were issues which fell under communal responsibility and that therefore they should enjoy the widest possible international collaboration. On the basis of that conviction, Saudi Arabia had ratified the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as well as the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. It was that same conviction that had led Saudi Arabia to expend considerable efforts to develop training in the surveillance, investigation and combating of economic crimes.

71. The Saudi delegation reaffirmed that its country would not spare any effort to promote criminal justice, both nationally and internationally.

72. **Ms. Halabi** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that drug trafficking, as one of the major problems of contemporary society, required increased attention on the part of the international community.

73. The Syrian Arab Republic was a party to most of the international instruments for combating crime. In 2009, it had ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the two protocols thereto: the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. It was contributing to international action being taken to combat crime and had consequently signed several bilateral and multilateral agreements, in particular with regard to the extradition of criminals.

74. Trafficking in persons was another transnational phenomenon of particular concern. The Syrian Arab Republic was fighting determinedly against trafficking in migrants and other human beings. Her country was aware that its geographical situation made it a transit country and had therefore considerably reinforced surveillance on its borders, which had enabled it, with assistance from France, Germany and Italy in particular, to dismantle several clandestine immigration networks.

75. A draft law on combating trafficking in persons had been drawn up in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme. A reception centre for victims of trafficking had been opened in Damascus, and a second centre would soon be opened in Aleppo, with assistance from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and support from the European Union.

76. At the national level the Syrian Government was redoubling its efforts in the fight against drug

trafficking. Awareness-raising campaigns aimed at children and young people were being implemented, and measures were being taken to reduce the demand for narcotics.

77. The Syrian Arab Republic was a party to the international drug-control conventions. It had signed bilateral agreements with Cyprus, Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Turkey with a view to sharing any and all information on drug trafficking, and it was open to all forms of cooperation in that area, with all parties concerned. Her country was already cooperating closely with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and welcomed the technical support that its Regional Office for the Middle East was providing to the countries of the region. It was hoped that the Office would be provided with additional resources.

78. The Syrian Arab Republic called for the development, under the leadership of the United Nations, of an international programme of work aimed at combating trafficking in persons, which should address the underlying causes of the phenomenon and have clear objectives.

79. The Syrian Arab Republic felt firmly that, with the requisite political will, the efforts being made by the United Nations and its Member States to combat transnational organized crime and drug trafficking would be crowned with success.

80. **Ms. Rubiales de Chamorro** (Nicaragua) said that her country reiterated its unswerving attachment to the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, and that in that context it had modified its domestic legislation to align it with those instruments, had drawn up national plans to give effect to the legislation and had taken part in the development and coordination of regional plans. Drug abuse, the production of and trafficking in narcotics, transnational organized crime, terrorism and its financing, and corruption had been considered to be threats to security and to the political, economic and social development of the peoples of Central America at the Ministerial Conference on Illicit Drug Trafficking, Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism as Challenges for Security and Development in Central America, which had been held in June 2009 and had concluded with the adoption of the Political Declaration bearing the same name.

81. In addition, the subregion had a strategy for security in Central America and Mexico, including an action plan which was supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and whose implementation would require additional resources, which the international community was urged to help mobilize.

82. Transnational organized crime and drug abuse were worldwide scourges which required solutions based on coordinated multilateral actions enshrined in a well-established international legal framework.

83. Nicaragua was firmly opposed to the intention of certain Member States to have recourse to non-peaceful means, such as the establishment of military bases, to combat drugs. That type of measure, far from being a solution, threatened peace and security in the region.

84. Nicaragua was neither a drug-producing country nor a drug-consuming one, but was, owing to its geographical position, a transit country which found itself obliged to devote some of its limited national resources, which could have helped to solve domestic problems, to combating transnational crime. Her country therefore called on the international community to ensure that the principle of shared but differentiated responsibility was implemented through mobilization of resources. At the same time, it saluted the work carried out by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the support which it was giving to Nicaragua and the region as part of the fight against transnational organized crime.

85. All agreed that trafficking in persons was one of the most abominable of contemporary crimes. Nicaragua was among the countries supporting the preparation of a global plan of action against trafficking in persons, based on consensus and the principle of shared responsibility. Far from being redundant, such a plan would make it possible to facilitate the use of existing international instruments and mechanisms, promote coordination and formulate operational plans incorporating indicators for evaluating progress made and obstacles encountered at the national, regional and international level. Not only must such a plan be based on human rights and guarantee complete protection for victims, it must also attack the evil at its root, in other words target the demand that was leading to exploitation.

86. As part of the major efforts that it was making to combat trafficking in persons, Nicaragua had created a national coalition made up of 95 public bodies, civil

society entities and international cooperation agencies and had established a legal framework that penalized that crime in accordance with the provisions of article 182 of the new Criminal Code.

87. Nicaragua had also ratified the instruments providing international protection for human rights, such as the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. It was also preparing a draft bill which would enable it to enhance the prevention of activities related to organized crime and trafficking in persons, improve investigations into such matters, prosecute those responsible more effectively and better administer the goods seized, confiscated or abandoned. Alone in the region, Nicaragua was currently working on drawing up the second geographical and social map of the networks for trafficking in persons, covering the whole country.

88. Nicaragua would continue to spare no effort to fight against those crimes, relying on a police force whose integrity and determination to overcome organized crime in Nicaragua, despite the modest resources available, had been recognized by other countries of the region. Nicaragua thanked the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for its technical support.

89. **Mr. Solón-Romero** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that his country was resolutely engaged in the fight against the global scourges represented by drugs, narcotics trafficking and organized crime. Indeed, his country had been congratulated for the efforts that it had made in those areas at the Nineteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin American and Caribbean Region, held in Venezuela from 28 September to 2 October 2009. The June 2009 report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the control of coca crops on Bolivian territory also indicated that the interdiction measures taken by the Bolivian Government were worthy of praise.

90. Since President Evo Morales had taken office, operations to combat drug trafficking had multiplied and had resulted in the seizure of major quantities of cocaine, the confiscation of chemicals intended for the manufacture of drugs, and the destruction of crystallization laboratories and macerating tanks.

91. The expulsion from the country of the United States Drug Enforcement Agency at the end of 2008 owing to its interference in domestic political affairs had had no negative effect on the fight against drug trafficking and seizures of narcotics. The confiscation of chemicals and the destruction of laboratories had in fact increased in 2009.

92. However, that had not prevented the United States Government from suspending his country's trade preferences under the Andean Trade Preference Act, a law which had been an expression of the principle of shared responsibility for combating drugs, and from revoking its certification.

93. The Plurinational State of Bolivia denounced the blackmail and politically motivated disciplinary sanctions by the United States. The UNODC Regional Office was currently being reinstalled in Bolivia, and the country was striving to promote bilateral, regional and worldwide cooperation in order to contribute, on the basis of the principle of shared responsibility, with complete transparency and without any interference in domestic political matters, to ridding humanity of the scourge of narcotics.

94. As part of its strategy to conduct the fight against drug trafficking on a regional and multilateral basis, the Plurinational State of Bolivia had promoted the creation, within the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) of the South American Council to Combat Drugs Trafficking, and had concluded bilateral interdiction agreements with Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay, which in particular had made it possible to dismantle sophisticated recycling laboratories for precursors intended for the crystallization of cocaine.

95. In cooperation with the coca producers, the Plurinational State of Bolivia had succeeded in reducing the area used for coca cultivation by more than 5,000 hectares per year, without violence and without violating human rights, unlike what had happened in the past. The country's objective was to reduce that area by more than 6,000 hectares in 2009.

96. According to the 2008 UNODC report, the amount of coca produced in Bolivia represented only 18 per cent of the worldwide production quantity, and the maximum potential production of cocaine in Bolivia was 13 per cent of the world total. However, that figure would go down once a detailed study of coca had been completed which would determine the

quantity of coca leaves that were used in traditional consumption in the country.

97. On 12 March 2009, President Evo Morales had presented a draft amendment to article 49 of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs to decriminalize the chewing of coca leaf, which was prohibited under the Convention according to cultural prejudices which had no scientific basis.

98. Chewing coca leaf was an ancestral custom practised for thousands of years by the indigenous people of the Andes, one which went back at least to the third millennium BC and was intimately related to the region's history and cultural identity. Chewing coca leaf in its natural state caused no harm to human health and induced neither disorders nor addiction.

99. The Plurinational State of Bolivia proposed that the UNODC reports on the eradication of excess and illegal coca crops should also indicate the eradication methods used. There was a great difference between reducing the growing of coca in an organized manner and with respect for human rights and doing so through recourse to violence, the use of toxic agricultural chemicals and the installation of military bases.

100. In the 21st century, the major issue would be to intensify the joint battle against drugs while correcting the errors that had been made more than a half century before.

101. **Ms. Al-Zibdeh** (Jordan) warmly welcomed the Secretary-General's reports on agenda items 104 and 105 and expressed the view that there was a need to strengthen international cooperation to combat the various forms of organized crime. Jordan was a party to the principal conventions and protocols dealing with combating trafficking in persons, slavery, transnational organized crime, drugs, terrorism and corruption and was cooperating with neighbouring countries and the international community as a whole to combat those scourges.

102. With regard to trafficking in persons, Jordan had taken measures such as adopting a law prohibiting the practice and creating a National Committee against Trafficking in Persons, chaired by the Minister of Justice. In June 2009, the Jordanian Government had launched the second phase of the National Plan to Combat Forced Labour and Trafficking, drawn up in 2007 in cooperation with the International Labour Organization. A partnership project with the European Union had also been prepared in 2008.

103. In the field of combating drugs, Jordan was cooperating with various regional and international partners, particularly in the areas of prevention and care. In particular, it had hosted the 23rd Arab Conference of Heads of Anti-Drug Departments in July 2009 and was working together with the Dublin Group, the European Police College, and the European Union's MEDA programme. Jordan had also undertaken to strengthen and modernize the operational resources of its anti-drug services.

104. Jordan welcomed the efforts made by UNODC in the area of combating terrorism and had taken specific measures to protect itself against that form of crime. With regard to the fight against corruption and money-laundering, it had hosted the first session of the Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and intended to attend the third session, which would be held in Doha in November 2009.

105. **Ms. Kidanu** (Ethiopia) stated that her country was a party to all the main United Nations anti-drug conventions. The implementation of those conventions at the national level should be based on an effective criminal justice system, respect for the rule of law and law enforcement mechanisms. In that connection, Ethiopia had adopted a national drug policy and taken legislative, regulatory, juridical and administrative measures to combat the production, distribution and consumption of narcotics. Since the fight against drugs involved several different sectors, it was important that the various bodies concerned should work in close cooperation. To that end, the Ethiopian Government had decided to establish an inter-ministerial coordinating committee responsible for implementing the National Drug Control Master Plan for the period 2009-2013, which had been drawn up with technical assistance from UNODC.

106. International cooperation also played an important role in the battle against drugs. Ethiopia welcomed the establishment of a UNODC project office in Ethiopia and the launching of a countrywide inter-agency project. The country was also grateful for the efforts of other bilateral, regional and international partners, hoping that they would continue to assist Ethiopia's efforts in that regard, in particular in the field of capacity-building for its law enforcement agencies.

107. **Mr. Sparber** (Liechtenstein), recalling that his delegation was traditionally one of the sponsors of the resolution on the strengthening of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular in the area of its technical cooperation capacity, pointed out that Liechtenstein provided financial and technical support to the work of UNODC in capacity-building in the area of legal assistance. It was also one of the main donors to the International Centre for Asset Recovery, a major partner with UNODC in the implementation of the Stolen Assets Recovery Initiative, through its work of training and providing developing countries with effective information technology tools. The implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the ratification of which by Liechtenstein should be completed in 2009, essentially required such forms of cooperation.

108. The Counter-Terrorism Committee had acknowledged in its preliminary implementation assessment statement in May 2009 the legislative measures taken by Liechtenstein with a view to combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. Liechtenstein had also ratified and implemented all 16 United Nations anti-terrorism conventions and protocols. As a State party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the two Protocols thereto, it hoped that the tenth anniversary of the Convention, in 2010, would also be an occasion to intensify the operational work of the United Nations to combat transnational organized crime and urged all Member States that had not yet done so to become parties to the Convention and its Protocols.

109. **Mr. Tanin** (Afghanistan) said that the fight against drugs essentially required not only a reduction in production but also in demand. The improvement of the security situation was also an important factor, and in that connection, the training of the Afghan army and police force must be a priority. Afghanistan's counter-narcotics efforts had seen some remarkable successes in the past year, in particular in some specific aspects.

110. Firstly, poppy cultivation and opium production had dropped by 22 per cent and 10 per cent respectively, compared with 2008. In addition to destroying such crops, Afghanistan intended to concentrate its efforts on the promotion of other viable livelihoods, in the form of either replacement crops or economic development projects, and was pleased that the United States also considered that the right approach.

111. Secondly, the anti-drug infrastructures and coordination had been improved under the national drug control strategy. Furthermore, a conference had been organized for the provincial governors and an awareness-raising campaign had been launched. With regard to enforcement, a strengthened anti-drug law had been passed, and a special police force and court had been created. The Afghan Government intended, with the support of the international community, to continue along the same path and to focus its efforts on capacity-building, strengthening of institutions and improvement of the rule of law.

112. Thirdly, cooperation with neighbouring countries had greatly improved. In the framework of the triangular initiative bringing together Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, the anti-drug forces of the three countries had successfully carried out joint operations along their frontiers. Afghanistan had also cooperated closely with other countries of the region under the second UNODC initiative on regional communication, competence and training to combat trafficking, launched in May 2009. It was important to continue enhancing cooperation in accordance, in particular, with the Paris Pact, the Rainbow Strategy and Security Council resolution 1817 (2008), with particular focus on preventing the import of precursor chemicals into Afghanistan.

113. Fourthly, Afghanistan had improved its cooperation and coordination with the international community, in particular the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with which it had undertaken a successful military operation in the first half of 2009. Bilateral cooperation had also been enhanced, both regionally and internationally. The Afghan Government was grateful to UNODC and to the International Narcotics Control Board for the assistance that they continued to give the country in all areas of the fight against drug trafficking. Those initiatives made it possible to give a regional and international dimension to the efforts under way in Afghanistan to combat drugs.

The meeting rose at 1:15 p.m.